



July 2020



D. Blair Camp
Mayor

mayor@murray.utah.gov

801-264-2600

Independence Day

When I was a young boy, I remember being very excited for my upcoming birthday, anticipating a party with my friends and family, including food and games and fun. Little did I know that I would break out with a case of the chicken pox shortly before my birthday, which resulted in the cancellation of my birthday party plans. I remember being bitterly disappointed at the change of plans but being reassured that it was for the best, and that there would be future celebrations ahead.

This year as we celebrate the 244th birthday of our great nation, the unexpected outbreak of the coronavirus has caused us to cancel the regular birthday party plans that we have become accustomed to. We'll miss the 5k run, the sunrise service, and the pancake breakfast. We'll miss the parade, the activities in Murray Park, and the evening concert. We will miss the amazing fireworks display that has been a tradition for many years. The decision to suspend the Fun Days activities was a difficult one that was not taken lightly, but I feel reassured that it was for the best.

While the public festivities have been cancelled for this Independence Day, let's not forget the reason that we have these celebrations each year, and let's celebrate the birth of our great nation in ways other than the recent traditions that have become customary, in smaller groups and doing family activities.

Celebration of Independence Day is a commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, when the United Colonies dissolved political connections with, and allegiance to, the British Crown. The United States of America was born! Among many other things, the signers of the Declaration of Independence declared that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

As we celebrate our nation's birthday, I express my profound appreciation for those founding fathers of our nation, to those who fought and died for the rights that we enjoy, and for those who have served to defend this country since then. We owe a debt of gratitude that we can never repay. May we never take those rights for granted!



A few years ago, I had the opportunity to sit at Fort McHenry, Maryland, at the place where Francis Scott Key wrote “The Star-Spangled Banner” during the British attack on the fort in 1814. As I listened to our national anthem playing, I watched the flag flying in the distance near the harbor. I got a lump in my throat as I reflected on the battle that had taken place there. I get that lump in my throat each time I hear the national anthem.

Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States once said, “My country owes me nothing. It gave me, as it gives every boy and girl, a chance. It gave me schooling, independence of action, opportunity for service and honor.”

While we may celebrate America’s birthday a little differently this year, let’s remember what the celebration is all about. We are cautiously optimistic and hopeful that we will be back with our traditional Murray Fun Days celebration in 2021.

Happy Birthday America!